



**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
Department of Commerce



Issued: January 10, 2012

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND SCOPING MEETING**

**In the Matter of the Certificate of Need Application for the  
Black Oak Wind and the Getty Wind Projects**

**PUC Docket Number: IP6853, 6866/CN-11-471**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) staff will conduct a public information and environmental report scoping meeting on the certificate of need application by Black Oak Wind, LLC (Black Oak) and Getty Wind, LLC (Getty) (collectively the Applicants) to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for an up to 82 megawatt (MW) wind farm (Project). The purpose of the meeting is to provide information about the Project and to identify issues and alternatives to study in the environmental report (ER) that will be prepared by EFP staff.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION AND SCOPING MEETING**

Thursday, January 26, 2011 – 6:00 p.m.

Sauk Centre City Hall  
320 Oak Street South  
Sauk Centre, Minnesota 56378

**EPF staff will accept written comments on the scope of the ER until Wednesday, February 15, 2012.** Please include PUC Docket No. **IP6853, 6866/CN-11-471** on all comments. Comments should be mailed, emailed, or faxed to:

Suzanne Steinhauer  
State Permit Manager  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7th Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101-2198  
Fax: 651-296-2888  
suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us

Comments may also be submitted on the Commission's energy facility permitting website,  
<http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us>.

The meeting will include a brief presentation of the state's certificate of need process, the Project, and how the public can participate in the certificate of need process. Representatives from Black Oak and Getty will be present to answer questions about the proposed project. Members of the public will have

an opportunity to ask questions, present comments, and propose issues, impacts, and alternatives to be studied in the ER.

**Project Description.** The proposed Project is comprised of two adjacent large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) projects located in Stearns County, approximately 5 miles southwest of Sauk Centre (see accompanying map).

Black Oak Wind, LLC proposes to construct the Black Oak Wind Farm on a site comprised of approximately 7,100 acres of agricultural land in Ashley and Raymond townships. Depending upon final layout, approximately 13.5 to 20 acres would be converted to turbines and associated infrastructure.

Getty Wind Company, LLC proposes to construct the Getty Wind Project on a site comprised of approximately 7,360 acres of agricultural land in Sauk Centre and Getty townships. Depending upon final layout, approximately 18 to 32 acres of agricultural land would be permanently converted to turbines and associated infrastructure.

Applicants are considering turbines with tower heights ranging from 262 to 328 feet (80 to 100 meters), with rotor diameters of 270 to 367 feet (82.5 to 112 meters), for a total height of 397 to 492 feet (121 to 150 meters). The Project would also include installation of electric feeder and collection lines, an operations and maintenance facility, permanent meteorological towers, and a substation. Applicants intend to seek a permit from Stearns County for a 69 kV transmission line to connect the Project substation with Xcel's Black Oak Substation.

The Applicants plan to construct the Project by December 31, 2012.

**Review Process.** Three separate Commission approvals are required for the proposed Project – a certificate of need (CON) for the Project and separate site permits for the Black Oak Wind Farm and the Getty Wind Project. A certificate of need application for the Project was filed jointly by Black Oak and Getty on October 11, 2011. Black Oak filed a site permit application with the Commission in January 2011 (Docket No. IP6583/WS-10-1240). Getty filed a site permit application with the Commission on October 11 and 12, 2011 (Docket No. IP6866/WS-11-831).

The certificate of need and site permit applications are being reviewed separately by the Commission. Site permits for the Black Oak Wind Farm and the Getty Wind Project cannot be issued prior to a determination by the Commission that the Project is needed (Minn. Rules 7854.0500, subp. 2(A)). The Commission's CON process is the only process in which a no-build alternative and the size, type, timing, system configuration, and voltage of the proposed project and alternatives will be considered.

EFP staff is responsible for conducting the environmental review for certificate of need applications submitted to the Commission (Minn. Rules 7849). This review requires the preparation of an ER for the Project. An ER examines the potential human and environmental impacts of a proposed project, alternatives to the proposed project, and potential mitigative measures. EFP staff conducts a public information meeting to gather comments and suggestions on the proposed project in order to focus the content or "scope" of the ER.

Upon completion of the ER, a public hearing will be held in the project area. The hearing will be presided over by an administrative law judge (ALJ) from the Office of Administrative Hearings.

Members of the public will have an opportunity to speak at the hearing, present evidence, ask questions, and submit comments. Notice of the public hearing will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons who register their names on the project mailing list (see below).

Upon completion of the environmental review and hearing process, the record compiled for the CON application will be presented to the Commission for a final decision. A decision by the Commission on a certificate of need for the project is anticipated sometime in late spring or early summer 2012.

**Eminent Domain.** Neither Black Oak Wind, LLC, nor Getty Wind, LLC, has the power of eminent domain to acquire the land or wind rights for the Project. Wind and land rights necessary to build the facilities must be in the form of voluntary easements or lease agreements between individual landowners and the Applicants.

**Project Mailing List.** Persons should contact the state permit manager or public advisor (noted below) or register online at: [www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us) to get their name on the project mailing list. Persons on the mailing list will receive notices of meetings and notices of document availability for this project. If you do not register to be on the mailing list you will not receive correspondence regarding this project after this notice. Project mailing list registration is voluntary and may be done at any time.

**Project Documents.** A more detailed description of the proposed project is contained in the certificate of need application. An electronic version of this document is available on the Commission's energy facility permitting website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=32459> . Additionally, documents are available on the Commission's eDockets system: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the year "11" and the number "471").

The certificate of need application is also available at the locations noted below:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Great River Regional Library</b><br>Bryant Library<br>430 Main Street South Unit 1<br>Sauk Centre, MN 56378 | <b>City Office in Sauk Centre</b><br>City Hall<br>320 Oak Street South<br>Sauk Centre, MN 56378 |
| <b>Stearns County Auditor's Office</b><br>705 Courthouse Square Room 148<br>St. Cloud, MN 56303-4701           |   |

**Project Contacts.** If you have questions or would like further information about this project, please contact:

***Department of Commerce – Environmental Review***

Suzanne Steinhauer, State Permit Manager  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198  
(651) 296-2888  
[suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us](mailto:suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us)

Ray Kirsch, Public Advisor  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198  
(651) 296-7588  
[raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us](mailto:raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us)

***Public Utilities Commission – Certificate of Need Process***

Tricia DeBleeckere  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
(651)201-2254,  
[tricia.debleeckere@state.mn.us](mailto:tricia.debleeckere@state.mn.us),

Bret Eknes,  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
(651)201-2236  
[bret.eknes@state.mn.us](mailto:bret.eknes@state.mn.us).

***Applicant***

Patrick Smith  
Black Oak Wind, LLC/  
Geronimo Wind Energy, LLC  
7650 Edinborough Way, Suite 725|  
Edina, Minnesota 55435  
(952) 988-9000

Roland Jurgens  
Getty Wind Company, LLC  
P.O. Box 321  
Chokio, MN 56221  
(320) 324-7122

Christina K. Brusven  
Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.  
200 South Sixth Street,  
Suite 4000  
Minneapolis, MN 55402  
(612) 492-7412

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651-296-0391 (voice). Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through Minnesota Relay at 1-800-627-3529 or by dialing 711.

